

Some of the steps taken/proposed to be taken to boost exports of agro products from the country as a whole including Maharashtra include:

1. Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old cashew plantations, area expansion, improving productivity and training of farmers.
2. Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging, strengthening of quality control and modernization of processing units.
3. Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions.
4. Providing assistance in development of data base and dissemination of market information.
5. Providing assistance for setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, eliminating contamination & ensuring freedom from fungi and bacteria.
6. Grant of Air Freight Subsidy for exports of floricultural items and select fresh fruits and vegetables.
7. Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various International Airports for handling export of perishable items such as flowers, fresh fruits and vegetables.
8. Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for eliminating pest incubation in the product especially the mangoes for gaining access to overseas market.

Allowing foreign companies to import and export

† 2963. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have put conditions for allowing foreign companies to import and export;
- (b) if so, what are these conditions; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor and what will be its effect on Indian economy?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) No export or import can be made by any person or company without an Importer Exporter Code (IEC) Number. An Importer-Exporter Code Number is granted, on application, by the competent authority in accordance with the procedure specified in Export Import Policy, Handbook of Procedures, Vol. I. If there is any non resident interest in the applicant firm and non resident investment has been made with repatriation benefit, the IEC Code Number is granted only after ascertaining that the firm has obtained necessary approval from Reserve Bank of India.

Once a foreign company has been granted IEC Number, the export and import to be made by the company shall be subject to all the provisions of Export and Import Policy, as applicable on any other company including domestic companies.

Inclusion of some areas of M.P. under USDS

† 2964. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether some areas of Madhya Pradesh have also been included under the Integrated Industrial Sector Development Scheme under which development of small scale industry sector is undertaken under the instructions of Government and through loans from S.I.D.B.I.;

(b) if so, the details of such schemes;

(c) whether any case is under consideration under this scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) and (b) An Integrated Infrastructural Development (IID) Scheme for the development of Industrial infrastructural in backward districts/rural areas in the country is implemented by the Ministry for Small Scale Industry. Under this Scheme, Central Grant up to Rs. 2.00 crore and loan from Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) upto Rs. 3.00 crore is available for each centre. In case of IID centres for North-East Region the Central Grant can be up to Rs. 4.00 crore and SIDBI loan up to Rs. 1.00 crore. The State Governments are required to select appropriate sites, firm up the proposals and get these appraised from SIDBI for techno-economic viability. On the basis of such recommendations, from SIDBI, the Central Government sanctions IID projects. Two IID projects, one at Village

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